(b) if SO, steps taken in this regard and the details of the suggestions given in this regard by the National Commission constituted for industries of the unorganized sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCEAND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) in its report on 'Creation of a National Fund for the Unorganised Sector' has proposed creation of a National Fund for the non-farm unorganized sector to cater to the developmental needs of the unorganized sector through assistance in areas of credit, marketing, skill development, technology upgradation, common infrastructure development, etc. The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

India's share in International wool market

† 1648. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that India's share in the International wool market is just negligible;

if so, the reasons therefor;

what steps have been taken to modernize the wool industry with a view to increase India's export of wool and mixed products in the International markets; and

what steps have been taken by Government to improve upon the species of sheep and also produce wool of fine quality with a view to increasing production of wool?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. India's share in International Wool Market is approximately 3%.

The probable reasons may be low yield (approximately 0.900 Kg. sheep/year) in comparison to world average (3.500 Kg. sheep/year); inadequate availability of pasture/ grazing land and low return from the wool produce.

The Government has taken up steps by sanction of a separate scheme *Le.* "Quality Processing of Wool & Woolens" and through creation of Common Facility Centre for improvement in quality and quantity of the finished goods for better returns. The Technology Upgradation Fund scheme has already been extended upto 2012.

The Government through Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur has taiken up **a** separate scheme *Le.* "Integrated Wool Improvement & Development Programme" for Improvement of Wool Fibre in the country with a provision of Rs. 48.82 Crore in the XI Five Year Plan. The scheme has separate components of breed improvement; health coverage; product development and marketing assistance.

Closure of small and medium exporting industries

1649. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of small and medium scale exporting industries are closing on account of current exchange rate scenario; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.